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Convention on the Elimination
of all Forms of Discrimination
Against Women

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Ninth session
New York, 22 January-2 February 1990
Agenda item 4

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Ms. Rose UKEJE (Nigeria)

Addendum

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

B. Consideration of reports

1. Initial reports

Peru replies

1. On general issues, the Committee requested information on the extent to which the Convention had been disseminated in the country and on measures taken to eliminate discriminatory laws that continued to exist in the legal codes. Further information was requested on the type of governmental or inter-ministerial mechanisms that had been developed in order to promote equal rights and co-ordinate government efforts for the advancement of women, especially in the light of the elimination of the National Committee of Peruvian Women that had been established in 1976.

2. Regarding article 2, it was noted that information had reached the Committee from non-governmental organizations indicating possible violations of human rights of women under detention and being made by the Government to combat terrorism in the country. A confirmation of the truth of those reports was requested along with the measures being taken by the Government to remedy that situation. In addition, information was requested about the intention of the Government to establish a

national machinery for the advancement of women and of efforts to adjust legislation to eliminate discrimination, especially about any laws that discriminated against indigenous women.

3. Concerning article 4, information on the extent to which temporary special measures were being used in the fields of education and work was requested.

4. Questions were asked about the extent to which traditional structures impeded the progress of women, in the context of article 5, and how far the Government utilized the mass media and other methods of information dissemination to make women aware of the Constitution or other laws favouring them, especially women in the rural areas. Information on the extent to which men shared in domestic work was requested.

5. With reference to prostitution, in terms of article 6, information on the extent of the problem, its relation to poverty and measures taken to deal with the problem, including the use of health cards, was requested.

6. With regard to article 7, information on the extent to which women voted, particularly in relation to their proportion in the population, was requested as well as on any impediments to that, such as illiteracy. It was noted that women seemed conspicuously absent from the formulation of government policy, and information on measures to increase their participation in decision-making was requested, as was data on the proportion of women who were candidates for parliament in relation to those elected. Questions were asked about the size of the women's movement, including the housewife committees and mothers' clubs and their use as the vehicle for extending the literacy, political, health and education programmes.

7. Questions were asked concerning the legal basis for the transfer of nationality within the meaning of article 9, whether that discriminated against women and any measures to eliminate discrimination against women in terms of article 10.

8. Concerning employment and article 11, information on the extent to which equal pay for work of equal value was applied in law and practice, as well as any positive legislation to ensure equality in employment was requested, together with information about whether protective provisions of the law might lead to discrimination against women, legal protection for domestic workers and whether Peru was a party to ILO Conventions.

9. Regarding article 12, information was requested on the legal provisions relating to abortion, the number of clandestine abortions and the extent to which women had access to family planning programmes and to public health services, especially maternal and child health and in the rural areas. It was asked whether the rates of infant and maternal mortality had decreased.

10. Information about steps taken to remove discriminatory laws about contracts was requested within the context of article 13.

11. With reference to women in the rural areas, under article 14, it was asked whether women were recognized as heads of family for the purpose of land tenure and whether they had equal access to loans, training and extension services. In addition, information was requested about the effect on rural women of illiteracy as well as the role of women's clubs in the rural area; and, further, whether there were special programmes both to solve the problems of rural women and protect them during any civil strife.

12. With regard to article 15, clarification was requested about the National Population Policy and particularly the meaning of the phrase "responsible paternity".

13. On article 16, questions were asked about the basis for the differential minimum age of marriage between women and men and particular its lowering. A question was also asked about the regulation of adoption, particularly international adoption. The legal status of de facto families (consensual unions) was requested as well as the incidence and trends of those unions, whether adultery, as a ground for divorce, was treated differentially for women and men. Information about the extent of violence against women was requested.

14. In response to the questions, the representative of the Government of Peru reiterated that the report ought to be seen in the national context where the country was suffering a grave economic crisis, arising from problems of the external debt burden that had significantly reduced the resources available for development, a continuing problem of terrorism and civil strife and a continuing problem with drug trafficking. The lack of resources had, for example, made it impossible for the report to have been presented by one of the specialists concerned with the issue since travel funds had not been available.

15. Concerning general issues as well as those raised under article 2, he stated that in terms of legal norms the Constitution provided for equality and the Convention also had direct standing in domestic law, but that the Constitution was more recent than many of the laws in the Civil, Criminal and Commercial Codes which, therefore, often contained legal provisions contrary to the Constitution and the Convention. Those codes had not yet been reviewed, but the legal norm, enforced by the country's courts, was for any law contrary to the Constitution to be considered null and void. In terms of national machinery, it had been decided to disband the National Council of Peruvian Women and replace it with a decentralized structure with women's units in the various ministries, which, regrettably, could boast of scant resources. There was an emerging consciousness of the need for a central body, a view held by all political parties, and as a result, changes were expected after the forthcoming elections. He noted that terrorism had inflicted a major toll of deaths, primarily among the rural poor, including men, women and children. The Government had not condoned violations of human rights and, indeed, had ratified all human rights Conventions. Whenever any allegation of violations of human rights had been levelled, investigatory commissions had been established and there had been instances of civil penalties for those in the military or civil authorities found to have engaged in such practices. Regarding dissemination of information about the Convention, however, he noted that the scarcity of resources had dictated that other priorities had to be followed.

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16. Concerning prostitution, with regard to article 6, it was stated that it had a social basis related to the socio-economic situation of women in which there was a lack of employment opportunities. It was difficult to change that situation through laws, although laws existed, for example, to punish the prostitution of minors. Solution to the problem was only possible through changing the root causes.

17. On article 7, the fact that women participated in the electorate in a lower proportion relative to their numerical strength in the population was acknowledged, but it was also noted that there had been increased participation recently deriving from women's increasing participation in work and in the trade unions. There were, however, no data on differences between the voting pattern of women and men since no figures were kept, although it could be noted that in the most recent election over 70 per cent of the eligible electorate in general had participated.

18. Regarding article 8, the representative stated that there had been efforts to increase the proportion of women in the diplomatic service and the representation of women was among the highest in the Latin American region, including offices at the top levels of the foreign ministry.

19. On the issue of nationality, under article 9, it was noted that in Peru the principle of both jus solis and jus sangini applied to determine nationality and, accordingly, there was no difference between women and men, as Peruvian citizens could pass nationality to their children through their registration.

20. Regarding education and article 10, it was stated that under the Constitution, 10 per cent of the public budget must be allocated to education. Universal primary education was a goal and out of a population of 20 million in 1985, 7.7 million were students, 80 per cent of them in free, State-funded institutions. There had been an average annual growth of 4.8 per cent in matriculation and one effect had been a decline by 1987 of illiteracy to 13 per cent of the population from a figure of 60 per cent at an earlier time.

21. In response to questions on article 11, it was stated that the legal structure did not permit inequality in the workplace, but there was considerable de facto discrimination due to attitudes and customs and, although some measures had been taken, the problem persisted. Some special efforts had been undertaken to help women within the context of the economic crisis, including a programme to support temporary work through public works in which 76 per cent of the participants were women, direct support in the form of comedores populares most of whose members were women, and joint artesanal workshops, as well as a programme to provide subsidized foods.

22. Concerning article 12, the representative stated that abortions were legal only to protect the life of the woman, and there was a high number of clandestine abortions. In terms of family planning, the general population law referred to responsible paternity in the sense of an equal responsibility for both women and men, and family planning had been added to secondary school curriculum, but there were no programmes to make contraceptive devices available. The effect of the general lack of resources to provide health services could be seen in the return of incidences of tuberculosis, a disease that had almost disappeared in the 1970s.

23. With reference to rural women and article 14, it was noted that much of rural property was collectively held and women were among those permitted to obtain land under the system. The development of mothers' clubs, a self-help initiative of women themselves, which involved multiple economic efforts by women, had been a major development. Under the regionalization policy, representatives of mothers' clubs were included by law in regional assemblies.

24. The existence of violence in the family, in terms of article 16, was acknowledged but it was stated that all violence was a crime but that violence inflicted by a family member was regarded more seriously and punished accordingly.

25. The Committee acknowledged the economic difficulties faced by Peru, but noted that it was particularly at times of national stress that women's strengths were needed and in that context, the importance of women's self-help movements and solidarity was stressed, both for the achievement of equal rights and of national development. In view of the constraints in providing detailed answers and information, it was decided to request the representative of the Government to transmit the Committee's questions to the appropriate national authorities who would in turn send answers to the Committee through the Committee's secretariat in Vienna.

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B. Consideration of reports

1. Initial reports

Turkey replies

1. In replying to questions raised by members of the Committee, the representative of Turkey emphasized the importance her country attached to the Convention and its determination to implement its provisions. Women's organizations, the mass media and public opinion were at times working as pressure groups on the political parties. Currently, the country was undergoing transformation through rapid urbanization, industrialization and modernization and the gradual introduction of the nuclear family. The urban women benefited to a greater extent from those changes, whereas, on the other hand, the general problem of unemployment heightened also the dimension of unemployment for women.

2. Non-governmental organizations had been informally consulted while the country report was being prepared. She noted that in Turkey, as in other countries, there was a fundamentalist movement, but their political impact was minimal. The main concern was with women in rural areas and the eradication of traditional social and economic differences prevailing in those areas. Women's associations and the mass

media strongly supported literacy and family planning campaigns in rural regions and paid special attention to girls and families who migrated from rural to urban areas. She said that the statement that only a few women were visible in the streets was incorrect.

3. Turning to comments made under article 2, she said that the Constitution and several other laws were all based on the principle of equality. Although the status of women in Turkey was not entirely satisfactory, women themselves were not responsible for that situation. However, through various organizations, women had started to make their voice heard, which was a first positive sign. With regard to detained women, there was no discriminatory treatment between women and men. She said that the State Planning Organization encompassed the national machinery that had been set up in 1987 to deal with all questions regarding women. It consisted of presidents of several women's associations, representatives of various ministries and universities and worked centrally. It was consulted in the preparation of the most recent five-year plan.

4. Referring to questions raised under article 3, she said that the rule that prevented women from being appointed as governors was a remnant of the past and there was a strong tendency to change that rule. Although women's groups worked as pressure groups, their pressure was not strong enough to affect political decisions.

5. The concept of "ideal equality" referred to complete and full equality between men and women and measures were being taken to recruit more women in certain professions.

6. Turning to article 5, she stated that Turkish women gave priority to their functions as wives and mothers as a result of prevailing traditions. However, special instructive television programmes were geared towards the elimination of prejudices and customs and most men of the present generation considered life as a joint venture and assisted their wives in household duties.

7. Referring to article 6, she said that under the Penal Code the reduction of the penalty for raping a prostitute was accurate and that the court decision had created enormous reactions by women in all strata and by the mass media.

8. Turning to article 7, she said that only six women were members of Parliament and there was only one woman minister. No quota had been introduced so far in party administration or on electoral lists, and only recently one party introduced a 25 per cent quota for party bodies at all levels. In December 1989, women constituted 21.20 per cent of lawyers, 12.06 per cent in the judiciary, 31.66 per cent of physicians, 40.22 of pharmacists and 34 per cent of the teaching staff in universities.

9. Regarding article 8, she stated that 11.54 per cent of the career diplomats were women and 24.69 per cent of the high-level jobs in administration were held by women, amongst whom one with the rank of Ambassador. Turkish women also played an active role in international organizations and conferences.

10. Referring to article 9, she said that mothers as well as fathers could transmit their citizenship to their children.

11. Turning to article 10, the representative said that primary schooling was compulsory for boys and girls and legal sanctions were foreseen against parents who withdrew their children from school. She provided detailed statistics on the percentages and number of girls and boys enrolled in primary and secondary level schools of various types during the years 1985 and 1986. Co-education applied to all school levels and she explained that customs, culture and the perception of the role of women determined the choice of girls for certain studies and professions. She said that no discrimination existed in the competitive examinations for entering university education. She said further that an increasing percentage of women was moving into the field of mass communications. There was also a great demand for women students in the field of performing arts. Throughout the country, campaigns which were supported by radio and television programmes had been launched to improve the literacy rate of women and one of the reasons for the higher literacy rate of men was that they learned to read and write during the obligatory military service. Finally, she said that sex education had not yet become part of school curricula.

12. Referring to questions raised under article 11, the representative said that 64.6 per cent of men and 35.4 per cent of women took part in the paid labour force, most of whom worked in farming and agriculture. She indicated the percentages of women who did unpaid work in the agricultural sector and said that neither women nor men in rural areas were covered by social security benefits. However, they could take out voluntary insurance under the self-employed workers' insurance system. Neither women nor men were covered by unemployment insurance. About 62 per cent of the population was covered by social security benefits, and about 65 per cent of all wage earners were members of trade unions. The minimum age of retirement was 50 for women and 55 for men. University teaching staff retired at the age of 67. Fathers were entitled to three days' paid leave during the child's birth, and women could take up to three years of unpaid leave after childbirth without losing their jobs. Child care facilities also existed. The rule of equal pay for equal work was ensured under the law. The income of a wife was taxed separately and labour legislation applied equally to men and women. Not many complaints for sexual harassment of women at the workplace had been received.

13. As a result of internal and external migration, women had to face many socio-cultural problems and women who returned from their country of migration found jobs appropriate to their knowledge and skills, most of them in the tourist sector. Special schools had been set up for children returning from abroad and 40 per cent of the girls who migrated back wanted to continue their higher education.

14. Turning to article 12, she said that family planning services had started in 1965, and family planning services were provided mainly by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in co-operation with the mass media and non-governmental organizations. In 1988, there were 128 family planning centres. Abortion was allowed up to the tenth week of pregnancy, and the rate of birth was 2.99 per cent. In big cities, shelters for battered wives and free legal advice were provided.

15. No difference between women and men existed regarding the access to bank loans.

16. Referring to article 14, she said that a small proportion of unpaid family workers were working in the carpet weaving industry, but she could not provide exact figures. In case of the emigration of husbands, the wives became heads of households.

17. Under article 15, she stated that women did not need their husbands' permission to travel.

18. Turning to article 16, she said that the minimum age for marriage for girls was 14, that inheritance rights were the same for girls and boys and that taking up employment against the will of the husband was not considered as a ground for divorce. She then enumerated the grounds for divorce as stipulated by law and said that pursuant to an amendment to the Family Code the woman had the right of choosing her name. She strongly hoped that the reservations placed on articles 15 and 16 would be withdrawn before the submission of the second periodic report.

19. In the course of some additional comments, members of the Committee expressed their hope that the subsequent report would adhere closely to the general guidelines, that it would contain detailed statistical data and more information on the status of women in rural areas, on the progress made in employment and in secondary education and on decisions taken by the Legal Reform Committee.

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B. Consideration of reports

2. Second periodic reports

Canada

1. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Canada (CEDAW/C/13/Add.11, parts I and II) at its 167th meeting, on 1 February 1990 (see CEDAW/C/SR.).

2. The representative of Canada, in introducing the report, stated that the size of the delegation reflected the importance attached to the prepartion and presentation of the report. He noted that Canada was a federal State with responsiblities for various subjects divided between the federal and provincial levels and, in addition, there was a large number of non-governmental organizations involved with women's matters. Considerable progress had been recorded and the advancement of women continued to be a high priority of the Government.

3. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, in section 15, guaranteed equality between women and men. Based on those provisions, 50 cases that cited gender as a ground of discrimination had been litigated over the past three years and the decisions on

them had resulted in practical progress for women. The Supreme Court of Canada had ruled that international instruments had relevance for the interpretation of the Charter. A national court challenges programme had been established to provide funding for women seeking redress under the law so that they could take court to cases that would clarify and advance equality and language rights. However, the process of dismantling systemic discrimination was long and complex.

4. Anti-discrimination legislation was a key to implementing the Convention and the Supreme Court had adopted a broad interpretation of equality and the dignity of individuals, applying it to sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of pregnancy. There were also amendments in order to eliminate discriminatory provisions in the Indian Act.

5. In terms of employment, women made up 44 per cent of the labour force, with 60 per cent working in some sectoral concentrations with wage disparities. There had been federal employment equity legislation requiring federally regulated employers and larger corporations to report on efforts to redress systemic discrimination against women, disabled persons, aboriginal minorities and members of visible minorities. The federal Government and seven provinces had taken initiatives to deal with the question of equal pay for work of equal value. There had been an increase in training and education to eradicate stereotypical attitudes about the woman's role in the workplace.

6. Concerning work and family responsibilities, in addition to the implementation of such measures as maternity and parental leave benefits, legislation had been enacted promulgating the national strategy on child care, giving priority to the needs of special groups of children.

7. In relation to women in public life, 40 out of 295 members of the House of Commons were women, up from 16 in 1982; there were six women in the federal cabinet, one woman at the head of a major national political party and three women among the nine justices of the Supreme Court.

8. New legislation related to abortion had recently been tabled in Parliament. The proposed legislation established that abortion was a medical decision to be made between a woman and her doctor based on broadly defined health grounds.

9. New measures had been adopted to address the problem of violence against women, emphasizing immediate needs and the federal Government had allocated $Can. 40 million to prevention and protection; a national strategy was being elaborated and one province had allocated $Can. 42 million to deal with the problem of spousal assault.

10. Responding to general questions posed by the Committee, the head of Canada's national machinery explained the work of provincial agencies, including the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence in Alberta, the Advisory Committee on Women's Issues in Education in New Brunswick, the Family Task Force in Nova Scotia and the Task Force on Day Care for Children in Quebec. She noted that more updated statistics were in the process of being prepared; the updated comprehensive analysis entitled "Women in Canada" would be issued in a few months and updated

statistics would be included in the next periodic report in 1991. The structure of the next report would be considered in the light of the Committee's suggestion that information be presented under one head rather than under individual provinces. The governments in Canada maintained close contact with non-governmental organizations, which were integral parts of the national machinery and their views were consequently always taken into consideration. There had been a number of efforts to publicize the Convention, including wide distribution of the text as well as Canada's report on the Convention and United Nations information material on it.

11. Concerning decisions of the Supreme Court relevant to discrmination and the Convention, in the light of article 2, it was noted that section 15 of the Charter had been cited in two cases, neither involving discrimination by sex, but which had interpreted the section as precluding systemic or indirect discrimination as well as direct discrimination. The interpretation also covered analogous grounds, such as personal characteristics that were associated with other disadvantages such as marital status. Section 7 on the right to life, liberty and security of the person had been interpreted so as to strike down the therapeutic abortion provisions of the Criminal Code, and the Court had ruled that international agreements to which Canada had become a party could be used in the interpretation of the Charter. The Charter applied to all citizens equally including to immigrant women and Inuit persons. Also in relation to article 2, the Government had introduced Bill C-5 to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Evidence Act dealing with sexual abuse of children. The amendment had come into force on 1 January 1988 and a Special Adviser on Child Sexual Abuse had been given a mandate to co-ordinate federal action on that subject. To examine new legislation in the light of the Charter, the Federal Minister of Justice undertook reviews, including the question of consistency with international human rights obligations. It was noted that proposed new legislation on abortion did not constitute sexual discrimination contrary to article 2 (g).

12. In relation to article 3, with reference to special programmes aimed at equal educational and cultural opportunities for Indian women, it was noted that the Aboriginal Women's Program, Native Citizens Directorate, Secretary of State had a mandate in the area and a number of activities were under way. Aboriginal women were not, however, fully involved in the economic and political life of the country, although that was gradually changing as aboriginal women became increasingly active in their communities. With regard to guidelines for immigrant women who lost their sponsorship because of family violence, it was explained that, under the guidelines, the sponsored spouse was not required to meet immigration selection criteria because of the promise of 10-year sponsorship by the spouse, which many feared might lead to automatic deportation if the sponsored spouse left the home and sought assistance in cases of violence or marital breakdown. Under the Charter, leaving a spouse was never sufficient grounds for deportation and immigrants had the same protection as citizens.

13. On article 4, relating to affirmative action, the Employment Equity Act was intended to ensure that all federal contractors doing business with the Government achieved and maintained a fair and representative workplace. In addition, the Women's Career Counselling and Referral Bureau of the Public Service had had a

positive impact on the mobility of women within the public service and its mandate had been extended for another five years.

14. On article 5, regarding obscenity legislation, it was stated that a bill had been introduced that would prohibit child pornography and pornography containing violent or degrading material. That would place tighter controls and add sex to the list of items against which hate propaganda was prohibited. The legislation was still pending. There were still many stereotyped attitudes and that constituted an obstacle to advancement.

15. Regarding article 6, it was confirmed that Bill C-15 dealing with juvenile prostitutes had come into force on 1 January 1988.

16. On article 7, there had been a slow but steady increase in the percentage of women in Parliament, the Government, public office and the judicial system, as reflected in an increase from 5.7 per cent in 1982 to 13.2 per cent in 1990 in the House of Commons, from 6.9 per cent to 14.5 per cent in provincial legislatures, from 6.3 per cent to 8.5 per cent in federal appointments as well as from 2 to 13 per cent in the number of women who held the highest diplomatic ranks. The political parties did not have quota systems but the main parties had taken steps to ensure female representation at party conferences and at the executive levels. Candidates were selected locally and women's political action was focused on that level. For minority women, the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women had served as a catalyst in the interest of those groups and the new president of the Advisory Committee on Women was a member of the board of directors of that group. The political parties had instituted special programmes to attract and involve women in the political process.

17. In terms of article 8, there was a co-ordinated federal government approach to providing candidates for vacancies in international organizations. Women were actively sought for those vacancies and the Government had also been a persistent voice for the advancement of women in the United Nations system.

18. Programmes were in place to encourage boys and girls to break away from stereotyped choices of education and training, in the context of article 10, mostly at the provincial level to which educational responsibility was delegated, including in particular information campaigns, curriculum changes, monitoring of teaching material and scholarship programmes.

19. Regarding article 11, it was stated that the Pay Equity Acts of several provinces had been drafted in the light of the Convention and the general approach adopted by the Canadian Human Rights Commission had been to base evaluations on a composite of skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions. Regarding the problem that Canadian women on average earned only 65 per cent of men's earnings, steps taken included the application of pay equity provisions, provincial initiatives to ensure equal access to employment opportunities and affirmative action policies supported by the trade unions in the context of contract negotiations. Regarding child care, places were subsidized under the Canada Assistance Plan that cost-shared with provincial and territorial governments and that had led to an increase from 102,000 places in 1985 to 300,000 in 1989. There

was an ongoing debate as to the State's role in that issue. Wages for child-care workers varied across the country but were generally low relative to the responsibilities involved and that was an area of concern that would be addressed in the next report. Although there would be a general review of labour standards, there was no change in the current policy of coverage of part-time workers, although some provincial jurisdictions had implemented legislative and regulative changes ensuring equal treatment of part-time and full-time workers. In relation to the pension system, a number of plans were intended to provide income security in old age, including the public pension plan and employer-sponsored and individual pension and retirement savings plans. For the public service in the federal sector, equal value was enforced through a complaint-based mechanism. A joint union-management mechanism had undertaken a study of jobs in the public service that had led to equal pay adjustments for several classes of public servants, mostly women.

20. In terms of article 12, the issue of abortion was being addressed through legislation being considered in the House of Commons that would establish abortion as a medical decision to be made between a woman and her doctor on health grounds, including physical, mental and psychological health. After the striking down of the Criminal Code provisions on abortion there had been no measured change in the number of abortions, but statistics had shown that many Canadian women had had abortions in the United States. Maternal mortality/morbidity rates were 5.35 in 1983, 3.18 in 1984, 4.02 in 1986 and 2.97 in 1987. Regarding the issue of women infected with HIV and AIDS, it was noted that, as of 15 January 1990, 189 adult female AIDS cases had been reported, or 5.6 per cent of total adult cases and there had been a number of programmes to reach out to women with education and support, as well as a concern with the human rights implications of AIDS testing and medical research.

21. On article 13, it was noted that a number of social services were provided for single mothers and the tax law had been revised to allow single mothers to be taxed at a similar rate to married mothers. There were also efforts to train single women, including providing allowances for child and dependent care during training. To assist women in the enforcement of child-support decisions, there had been a $1.2 million grant to assist in the development of automatic enforcement procedures.

22. Regarding article 16, it was noted that the procedure of garnishing wages for maintenance payments was applicable to all federal and provincially regulated businesses through normal proceedings and the procedures now applicable to the public service would eliminate the previous protection of civil servants from such garnishment. A number of results had been obtained from the 1983 intergovernmental working group on wife-battering and were reflected in federal initiatives and the $40 million family violence initiative noted previously. However, a study entitled "The City for Women: No Safe Place" had noted that 1 million Canadian women had been abused by husbands or live-in partners, more homicides involve husbands killing wives than the reverse and most Canadian women felt unsafe walking alone in their neighborhoods after dark. A study of Indian and metis women also revealed extensive abuse.

23. Responding to a follow-up question, she noted that the success of Canada in achieving the advancement of women was, as suggested, due to both the strength of the feminist movement and the political will of the leaders of Canada, supported by the action of individuals and organizations to achieve that objective. In addition, the existence of a well-defined national machinery with a Minister sitting in important cabinet committees and connections with a network of women's organizations was also important, as was the understanding by both business and governments of the demographics of women's involvement in the economy. The political commitment was reflected as well in the involvement of the country's permanent representative in the presentation of the report.

24. In response to other follow-up questions, she noted that there would be follow-up with non-governmental organizations in the light of comments on the report. The issue of violence against elderly women was receiving attention but there was a need to deal more broadly with the issue, although Canada had a Minister of State for senior citizens to organize responses to those issues. It was noted that progress was stalled temporarily in social services for the poor, as well as child care, owing to the economic conditions faced by the country and the lack of a consensus on the role of the State in child care, but the picture showed signs of improving. Regarding a question on the composition of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into New Reproductive Technologies, it was explained that the Commission was composed of six experts in law and genetics and was chaired by a woman. On support for and opposition to the draft abortion legislation, opinion on the specific bill was divided, although most people supported a pro-choice position in general. Concerning age of marriage, it was noted that the matter was provincial but there was a growing move toward a federal standard of 18 years for both sexes. Efforts were being made to support aboriginal women in their languages but the basic languages of the country for business purposes for all citizens would continue to be English and French. The role of the National Film Board of Canada in producing films on violence against women was acknowledged.

25. The operation of the Secretariat of Appointments in the Office of the Prime Minister was described and its effect on increasing the number of women appointees noted. The results of studies describing the division of labour in the home had shown that, where women worked full-time in the home, spouses contributed 10 hours a week to domestic work and where women worked full-time outside the home, spouses contributed only 11 hours.

26. She noted that there continued to be opposition to equality, rooted in unchanged attitudes and slowly changing structures. That opposition was not increasing but had rather become better organized, and there was no opposition to affirmative action as that was guaranteed by the Charter.